

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

May 25, 2010

ATTENDANCE: Uyesh Bhatti, Kara Burkins, Honorable Judge Mimi Cooper, Sheryl Deares, Elwood DeHaven, Cindy Hanley, Fred Hatem, Sandy Holmes, Beth Jones, Catherine Kansler, Robin Keener, Susan Kelly, Sharon Lipford, Diane Lutz, Patrick McCracken, Dr. Jamshid Mian M.D., Gilbert Miller, Tim Newnan, Terrence Proctor, Mark Puckett, Christin Rocha, Susan Herskek Rubinstein, Joe Ryan, Lorraine Upton, and Linda Williams.

Robin Keener chaired the meeting.

The minutes from the March 30, 2010 meeting were approved via email by **Sharon Lipford** and **Robin Keener**.

Sharon Lipford presented **Fred Hatem** with a plaque thanking him for his dedication and hard work as the previous Chairman of the MHAAC.

Robin Keener introduced **Cindy Hanley** from Anna's House to present a presentation.

Guest Cindy Hanley states Anna's House is a homeless shelter/transitional program for women and children. The process occurs by DSS contacting Anna's House; interviews are conducted, intake occurs; and a case plan is set. Eight families reside in Anna's House, and eight families live in apartments. Anna's House used to only have a location in Bel Air, but now are also moving into Aberdeen. The case plans are individually set and it depends where you come to us and what your needs are. They supply resources from Alliance and Family Tree. Prescription drugs are becoming difficult due to doctor shopping. We are dealing with more women with mental health issues. It is an ongoing problem and is working with children including tutoring. Anna's Guys is a program which allows children to have a male role model and supplies activities. Anna's Guys is a huge success.

Robin Keener states the organizational chart information will be used for the Strategic Plan. **Robin Keener** also introduced Uyesh Bhatti from Budget Inn to the meeting.

Guest Uyesh Bhatti states he assists individuals with temporary housing and works with the Health Department. After the temporary stay, the individual will seek an apartment and that is when problems arise. The individual will not have enough credit to obtain his/her own apartment and request an extended stay at the motel. No problems with destruction or drugs have occurred.

Susan Kelly introduced Susan Rubinstein from the Health Department.

Fred Hatem states that Dr. Sue Sardina who is starting an addictions practice is interested in attending the next MHAAC meeting. She has partnered with Turning Corners and is interested in working with more treatment providers.

Joe Ryan states that ODCP and HCPS are working together with underage drinking and have reached every high school. **Joe Ryan** introduced **Mark Puckett** to the meeting. The ninth grade classes have been reached in regard to underage drinking and presentations were conducted. The core of the problem is making sure the parents are on the right page, so the PTA's were addressed as well. The children were attentive to everything and the cooperation is good with the HCPS.

Susan Kelly states if underage drinking and addiction is part of the health curriculum and instruction other than **Joe Ryan's** presentations.

Guest Mark Puckett states yes underage drinking and addiction is part of the health curriculum and HCPS has drug education K through 12. HCPS is in the process of taking a look at elementary funding and changes in programs. Every ninth grader takes the required health class and HCPS offers an elective called Advanced Health for juniors and seniors. HCPS is writing a new class this summer in public health. The resources from ODCP are a great compliment to what HCPS is offering. Every fall is a Youth Drug Summit where teens come together, and ODCP provided the program and some of the funding.

Joe Ryan states that at Edgewood High School, Social Norming is being conducted. Twenty children were identified as leaders and will help to address issues such as bullying. The program takes three to four years to change the norm. The program is to help build the children's image and to stay away from drugs and alcohol.

Robin Keener states how parent involvement is with the program.

Joe Ryan states that grant money is given to support after prom parties in exchange for parents listening to the presentation. Parents are involved in after prom activities.

Patrick McCracken stated this past fall in order for an individual to play on a sports team he/she had to listen to a presentation.

Joe Ryan states on June 23 at Patterson Mill School, there will be a Symposium.

Judge Mimi Cooper questions **Diane Lutz** of Parole and Probation as to how probationers are referred to drug and alcohol evaluations and required treatment. **Diane Lutz** advised that probationers are referred to the various programs in the area, primarily those who provide summary reports, which are required in each caseload. Agents and monitors usually refer probationers to those programs who, based on past experience, have responded to requests for reports. **Judge Mimi Cooper** asked **Joe Ryan**, if his office could provide a comprehensive, up to date listing of those programs.

Linda Williams states they have a policy where everybody is tracked just for alcohol and drug treatment and have to submit monthly to ensure when urine tests, when referrals and evaluations were done, and if they are receiving treatment.

Diane Lutz states that probationers need to follow the court order and get evaluations. **Sharon Lipford** states they could come in and conduct presentations.

Judge Mimi Cooper asks Parole and Probation if they have a required educational meeting for all the agents. **Diane Lutz** states once a month they have a meeting. **Robin Keener** states we will get a new list.

Robin Keener asks the doctors how they determine on what medication to prescribe when the patient has a drug addiction problem.

Guest Susan Rubinstein states that you look at the history of the patient, causing the doctor to be more cautious in what they prescribe.

Dr. Jamshid Mian states that with drug addiction, you have to form a bond with the patient. Each patient is a case by case. The patient should come with documentation and the prescribing of the medication should correlate with the disease and documentation.

Robin Keener states the doctors should have knowledge about substance abuse.

Dr. Jamshid Mian states that addicts build tolerance. The doctor has to provide the best they can to the patient and make a deal with them. The patient needs to agree to a team approach including pain management and a counselor.

Dr. Jamshid Mian states that not all addicts receive Benzodiazepines and that when they are coming from the court system, that they should have some confirmation that they are not allowed to be prescribed this drug.

Guest Susan Rubinstein states that some of the confusion includes education as well. **Judge Mimi Cooper** states the doctor is depending on the client to relay all communication.

Guest Susan Rubinstein states that pharmacies track if a person is using multiple pharmacies.

Linda Williams states that psychiatrists are not seeing clients because they are too risky. **Dr. Jamshid Mian** states that psychiatrists are not available and are implementing psychologists. Pain management will not see clients unless it is for a procedure. A 15 minute office visit includes educating the patient, working on a team approach and writing the prescription. If the doctors would receive a letter regarding an addict, and medication not to prescribe them, it would help.

Fred Hatem states the patient needs to state they are an addict.

Tim Newnan states that they have a form that the patient signs stating what pharmacy will be used. This supplies a form of communication between the physicians and TRW.

Dr. Jamshid Mian states that their form states you can only go to one pharmacy. The rules are listed in their form of what happens if they abuse.

Patrick McCracken states that if you are a relative of an abuser who is doctor shopping you can go to the doctor and state if anything happens tell them there will be litigation.

Dr. Jamshid Mian states that due to HIPAA, you can not reveal information on a patient. The goal is to get to know who the patient is, get their history and obtain documentation. Some addicts pay cash for their prescription or take it out of state. Some doctors write on the prescription what pharmacy is filling it. Take steps necessary if abuse occurs; use electronic medical records; and triple resistance on prescriptions.

Guest Susan Rubinstein states that doctors are all aware if someone is taking advantage of the system.

Linda Williams states that the purpose of MHAAC is to bring in more mental health and treatment resources and providers.

Robin Keener states that the purpose of the organizational charts is to help receive more funds and submit them with the Strategic Plan.

Sharon Lipford states two new child psychologists have been funded for Harford County. Two doctors are retiring and it is a catch up game. We are looking at nurse practitioners at UCMC who can prescribe psychiatric medications and be supervised by psychiatrists.

Robin Keener states that a representative from UCMC should attend the meetings.

Sharon Lipford states Cathy Kraft would be a good candidate to invite from UCMC.

Terrence Proctor states if the healthcare for homeless and the partnership are a separate entity. **Susan Kelly** states the HCHD is tapped into BCHD and the HD works very closely with HealthLink.

Susan Kelly states Adolescent Addictions will move to 120 S. Hays Street by the end of June.

Sharon Lipford states that on September 17 they are inviting a guest to speak dealing with trauma and recovery. **Sharon Lipford** states that suicide prevention is a success and the posting of the suicide hotline in schools has helped. **Sharon Lipford** states the Garrett Lee Grant is suicide prevention and they are expanding the Yellow Ribbon Project.

Joe Ryan states on September 13 at the Callahan Center, Dick Prodey from Sheppard Pratt will be conducting a speaking engagement called Perception of Addiction.

Robin Keener states the Homecoming Golf Tournament is on September 20.

Adjournment